

JUVENILE INFORMATION GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Juvenile Information Sharing for RSMo. 210.865 Compliance

JANUARY 31, 2002



Members:

Judge Susan Block, 21st Judicial Circuit
Judge Jack Garrett, 37th Judicial Circuit
Patricia Graber, Department of Mental Health
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Kathy Martin, Department of Social Services
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Mark Steward, Department of Social Services
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CREATION OF THE JUVENILE INFORMATION GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

The Juvenile Information Governance Commission (JIGC) was created in 2001 by the passage of House Bill 236. The Commission is responsible for authorizing categories of information to be shared between executive agencies and juvenile and family divisions of the circuit courts. The JIGC is also charged with providing vision, strategy, policy approval, and oversight for the development and implementation of information sharing with schools, community agencies, law enforcement, and juvenile and family courts. The JIGC has authority to appoint subcommittees to address technical and policy issues associated with information sharing, communications, systems development, and systems implementation. House Bill 236 calls for the Commission to be comprised of members from the following agencies:

- The director of the department of mental health
- The director of the department of health and senior services
- The commissioner of education
- The director of the department of social services
- The director of the division of family services
- The director of the division of youth services
- The state courts administrator
- The superintendent of the highway patrol
- The chief information officer of the office of information technology of the office of administration
- One judge who hears juvenile cases in a circuit comprised of one county of first classification, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court
- One judge who hears juvenile cases in a circuit comprised of more than one county, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court
- One juvenile officer representing a circuit comprised of one county of the first classification, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court
- One juvenile officer representing a circuit comprised of more than one county, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court

THE MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM TASK TEAM

The MOJJIS Task Team was formed in 1998 as a result of Section 210.865 RSMo. This provision authorizes the state courts administrator and the departments of social services, mental health, elementary and secondary education, and health to coordinate their information systems to promote information sharing on, and tracking of individual children who have come in contact with or have been provided services by the juvenile divisions of the circuit courts and such departments.

This Task Team has been meeting regularly since its formation in 1998 to develop an information sharing system. The creation of the Juvenile Information Governance

Commission will now provide the MOJJIS Task Team with the direction necessary to implement that system and to meet the requirements of Section 210.865 RSMo.

Specifically, the Task Team has been working to create an electronic process that enables multiple agencies responsible for services to delinquent and neglected youth to share information on, and coordinate services to these children. The long-term goal of this process is to substantially improve the assessment, intervention, and tracking of juveniles across agency boundaries in order to reduce duplicate services and provide more appropriate treatment during a child's contact with the agency. All information received by a court, department, or school district is subject to confidentiality requirements as imposed on the department that originally collected the information.

To begin implementing this electronic process, in October of 2001 a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) was awarded that enabled the Task Team to issue a Request for Project Assessment Quotation (RFPAQ) for a technical assessment of issues affecting information sharing. A portion of the JAIBG funds were used to purchase dedicated servers for county division of family services' offices and computer equipment and e-mail licenses (Lotus Notes) for division of youth services offices in St. Louis and the northeast region of the state.

An additional RFPAQ was issued for the assessment, design, and planning of hardware and software for information sharing of previously identified data elements. This information sharing would occur between the division of youth services, division of family services, department of mental health, department of elementary and secondary education, department of health, and office of state courts administrator. One issue encountered in this effort is that each agency is very distinct in its procedural and operating processes, and Section 210.865 RSMo provides no guidance in addressing these differences.

Both RFPAQ's were awarded to Keane Federal Systems of McLean, Virginia. Keane presented the MOJJIS Task Force with four options for developing a secure information sharing system between the executive branch agencies and the judiciary. Those options are: (1) manual sharing, (2) leveraged dual-shared area, (3) manual plus pointer index, and (4) pointer index plus full access query. As designed by Keane, each option builds upon the previous option.

The manual sharing option (Option 1) provides for instruction of responsible individuals, at each of the named agencies, in State and Federal confidentiality laws and allows sharing and collecting of data via personal communication.

The leveraged dual-shared area (Option 2) allows trained personnel from OSCA to access the Common Area (CA), which is a shared database containing the key identifiers for individuals participating in programs sponsored by the DHSS, DSS, and DMH. Trained personnel from the other agencies to access the OSCA repository of Banner (the judicial case management software) data.

The manual plus pointer index (Option 3) would entail building a central automated system tied to all agency systems that provides a pointer to agencies having juvenile data. Users will query with identifiers and communicate with 'query-match' agencies to get details.

The pointer index plus full access query (Option 4) proposes constructing a fully automated system with full system query capability for data existing on the named agencies' systems. This is the most complex solution to 210.865 RSMo implementation. Additionally, MOJJIS agencies must procure middleware software to interface between the different systems of each agency.

ACTIVITIES OF THE JUVENILE INFORMATION GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

The first meeting of the Commission was held on October 5, 2001. At that meeting, the Commission agreed that information sharing creates a safer environment for service workers, patrolmen, etc. Information sharing also allows for better education and diagnosis of juveniles and provides consistency in addressing juvenile issues. The Commission authorized the MOJJIS Task Team to continue work on information sharing as a subcommittee of the Commission and to proceed with creating the outlines of an information sharing system that will enhance services, support efforts to reduce youth violence and abuse, promote data collection, and improve the administration of justice by maximizing the effectiveness of executive and judicial branch resources. Members agreed that the MOJJIS Task Team would make recommendations to the Commission for approval or review. The Commission also directed the Task Team to define its purpose as a subcommittee of the JIGC.

In November, the MOJJIS Task Team adopted the following mission statement:

“The Task Team will operate under the auspices of the Juvenile Information Governance Commission...[to] examine operational and technical issues associated with information sharing and planning and implementation efforts...The task Team shall provide policy and implementation recommendations to the Commission.”